

Covers Prince Edward Island Like The Dew
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The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink
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Why The Haste Now?

Since the Pearson Government has gotten itself into such a rigid position that it cannot—or will not—remedy the basic faults in the Canada Pension Plan, it is plainly the duty of the Opposition to force its hand in the matter, and resist any attempt to prevent a full-scale debate on its implications.

This is one of the most complicated—and certainly one of the most important—measures to come before Parliament, and the fact that it was held over until the dying days of the session is an intolerable piece of effrontery on the Government's part. The weeks wasted on the acrimonious flag debate could have been much better employed in discussing this matter. Plainly it needs all the scrutiny that can be given it.

The Government's offer to lower the age for old age security to 65 was a step in the right direction, but this does not remove the anomalies and unfairness of the so-called national pension plan, as indicated in the briefs presented by numerous responsible bodies before the joint parliamentary committee.

We have reviewed these presentations in our columns, and need not go into them again. One curious point, which we had not seen before, is made in the current issue of the Canadian Tax Journal, and it would be enough in itself to give our parliamentarians pause before indorsing the plan as it stands.

This is the fact that high-income earners would actually pay less for their pension than many earners in the lower-income brackets. The Tax Journal cites, in this connection, the case of a married man with two children, with a gross salary of \$5,000, who will pay \$79 a year. For income tax purposes, he would be able to deduct 21 per cent of the contribution (17 per cent income tax plus 4 per cent old age security tax.) This means that the pension actually would cost him \$62.41.

But take the case of a man with two children who earns \$20,000 a year. He will pay only \$43.45 a year for the plan! This is because he is in the 45 per cent tax bracket and is able to deduct 45 per cent of the cost of his contributions.

Here is one of the anomalies the Opposition members should probe into. They need time to track down every one of them, and have them remedied, before the plan goes through. And the Government, if it is wise, will throw no obstacle in their way.

And So It Goes

Timely reading for those who are struggling just now with their income tax forms is the Auditor General's report, tabled last week in Parliament, to which we referred in these columns yesterday. The report runs to 193 pages and one can dip in almost anywhere for evidence of what the Hamilton Spectator calls "bureaucratic bungling, sloppy book-keeping and petty chiseling," and what the Ottawa Journal warns must be approached with philosophic tolerance if one is not to "exhaust forever one's capacity for righteous indignation."

The report tells, for instance, of a firm of naval architects who made an error in the design of a \$9,900,000 weather ship which will eventually cost an extra \$500,000 to put right. The firm received its full fee of \$117,000. Pity, indeed, that this is the story about a piece of electronic navigation equipment which had been mistakenly transferred to salvage and sold for \$20, and whose replacement cost \$15,000.

Then there were the houses and other buildings erected for customs

officers and the Department of Citizenship and Immigration at Pigeon River on the Ontario-Minnesota border. These buildings, without the land, cost in all \$143,000. When, because of the building of a bridge over the river some miles away, they were no longer of use, all these buildings were sold for a total of \$8,145.

Or take the case of the damaged coast guard vessel. Here was a ship coming down the St. Lawrence from Three Rivers to Quebec City "in fine clear weather with excellent visibility," and running aground for no other reason but "the negligence, major in character, of the officer in charge." The officer was transferred to another position and assessed the maximum penalty of \$250. The taxpayers of Canada paid the penalty of \$147,671, the amount of the ship's damage.

"The foregoing," the report states in its deadpan manner, "is an example of the losses borne by the Crown under its policy of acting as its own insurer." It adds the recommendation that such losses be recorded for Parliament's attention in the Public Accounts.

And after that, what? The easy-going attitude to the handing of public wealth seems to be all-pervasive in governments these days. In another report, Members of Parliament, we are told, racked up a record total of "free" air trips in a four-month period, several of them spending well over \$2,000 each on this form of travel, all of which comes from the public purse. At one time demands for plane seats were so heavy that trips had to be limited to one a week. That must have been a real inconvenience!

In Alberta, Now...

While we still can't get to the bottom of the plan to "phase out railway operations" in this province, and are being reminded, from time to time, that the railway is "doomed" anyway and that we should reconcile ourselves to the inevitable, we find from the Speech from the Throne at the opening of Alberta's legislature last week that quite different ideas prevail in that part of Canada.

Out there, it seems, they're planning on railway expansion for the purpose of developing Athabaska's oil sands area. "Supplementing this large-scale development in North-eastern Alberta," says the Speech, "my government believes that far-reaching additional economic benefits would accrue if the resource areas in the western part of the province north of the Canadian National main line were served by rail transportation linking those with areas of the existing Canadian National Railway outlets to the seaboard."

No mention of all-weather roads as a practical alternative. The region, known for its high-grade coal, lies north of the CNR line, just east of the British Columbia border. Such a line would not only serve the sulphur-producing area near Edson and the coaling coal areas, but would also boost the possibility of pulp and iron ore development in the Peace River area.

These requirements, of course, are quite different to our transportation needs in this province. But it is interesting to note that the CNR is planning extension of its freight services in other parts of Canada as well. Nowhere has there been talk of "phasing out" its operations except among our causeway planners, whom we haven't heard from of late and who, it seems, are too coy to give an accounting of their activities to Parliament.

EDITORIAL NOTES

According to the Financial Post, in 10 years Quebec could be the biggest retail market in Canada, and by 1980 metropolitan Montreal will have a population of four million. The first rule for doing business profitably in Quebec, says The Post writer, is to forget the myth about the province being a rural society. Only 9 per cent of the people work on the land, 38.7 per cent in factories and offices.

Evidence that Cuba's economic squeeze is growing tighter is found in the new Cuban trade agreement with the Soviet Union, under which Cuban sugar shipments to the USSR are to be double but Soviet shipments to Cuba increase hardly at all. A year ago Cuba made the mistake of going all out for sugar again, reversing a trend to diversify its crops. The price of sugar was then momentarily high—9 cents a pound. But the inevitable happened. The price has now tumbled to 2 cents and Moscow, apparently, is unwilling to subsidize Cuba's wilting economy.



THIN ICE OTTAWA REPORT By Patrick Nicholson

Financial Woes Threaten UN Shipwreck

The financial woes of the United Nations have been in the headlines, with scare suggestions that this great international hope for world peace might go broke; or worse, that it might disintegrate through quarrels over meeting its expenses.

The trouble has arisen over disputes about financing the UN peacekeeping operations. Canada has an excellent record; we are the only country which has voluntarily participated in every major peace-keeping operation, and we not only pay our assessments in full, but also make temporary payments to assist in covering the deficit caused by the non-payment by Russia, France and other nations.

There are four classes of contribution which member-nations are asked to make. The first covers the general administrative services of the United Nations Organization, and the cost of basic non-operational programs, such as the World Economic Survey, the codification and development of international law, and the control of narcotics. These costs totalled about 80 per cent of the regular budget of \$101.3 million last year. No country objects to paying these costs.

A further 16.3 per cent of the regular budget was devoted to economic and social development programs for underdeveloped countries, and to refugee programs.

The balance of 3.9 per cent of the regular budget covered the cost of security missions not involving armed force. Here we meet the fancy initial words coined by the UN, such as UMOGIP which means United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan. Such missions recently have been in Lebanon, Kashmir and Palestine.

The soviet bloc members, namely Russia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, the Ukraine and Byelorussia, are alone in considering that these expenses should not be included in the regular assessment.

Then fourthly there is the heavy cost of peace and security operations involving armed forces, not included in the regular budget but financed by special assessments and voluntary contributions. These have recently included UNEF (United Nations Emergency Force) between Egypt and Israel, and ONUC (Operations des Nations Unies dans le Congo). The Soviet bloc and France, Belgium and South Africa have not

agreed with the legality and setting up of these operations, and have refused to contribute to their cost. UNFICYP (United Nations Forces in Cyprus) has been financed on a voluntary basis, with no general assessment.

Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations says that no member-nation may vote in the general assembly if its arrears exceed two years assessment. Several nations are now in this position.

EQUITABLE ASSESSMENTS A committee on contributions works out the proportion of the budget which shall be assessed against each member. This is

approximately based on each country's economic strength and population, subject to a ceiling and a floor. Thus last year USA was assessed at the ceiling, approximately 32 per cent of the total budget, or about \$32 million; Russia was assessed 15 per cent, Britain seven, France six and Canada three per cent. The floor was 0.04 per cent, or \$33,000.

Arrears to date total \$136 million, but this has so far been financed by the issuance of United Nations bonds, taken up by about 60 member-nations, including Canada who purchased \$6.24 million of bonds.

More Valuable Than Ever

Regina Leader Post There are strong arguments in favor of Canadian children learning to write and speak English. One is that this country is bilingual and one of the languages is English. According to at least one University of Saskatchewan professor, for some reason or other children manage to get through both public and high school without the necessity of mastering their own language and present themselves at the university level, to assimilate and communicate knowledge without any mastery whatever of the basic subject.

There might be some surprise, therefore, at the attitude of Prof. Robin S. Harris and the committee of admission standards of the University of Toronto. This group said, if they had their way, English would be dropped as a required subject in the university grade for all students except those who specialized in it.

Protecting The Consumer?

Vancouver Province Mr. Dave Barrett (NDP-Dewdney) has introduced a bill in the (B.C.) legislature to standardize price and weight markings on groceries and other staples. It would insist that goods be marked in price per ounce by the wholesaler, with the markings no smaller than a quarter of an inch tall. Here is an example of the fuzzy, well-meaning efforts of many legislators to protect consumers by passing laws that are meaningless.

Mr. Barrett evidently assumes weight is the significant criterion of value. In many cases value is an intangible not related to either weight or size. It often relates more to quality. Taste and scarcity frequently have more to do with price than any price-per-ounce yard-

stick. There are times when freshness is more important than heaviness. Even assuming that value can be expressed in ounces, how does that protect the consumer? If a manufacturer wished to be unscrupulous it would not be difficult for him to increase the moisture content of his product, which would reduce its price per ounce. Or, if that is impractical, he could use heavier (and perhaps lower quality) ingredients to make sure he offers more weight for less money.

All this is silly before the shrewdness of most buyers in finding from experience what is good value. Reputable firms don't need to measure their products in micrograms. Their customers don't need a guardian to assure them they are getting their money's worth.

Civil Service Strikes?

Montreal Gazette It is interesting to note that federal civil servants do not believe that they should have the right to strike. The point is emphasized in an editorial in the current issue of Argus, the official publication of the Civil Servants Federation of Canada. "Should civil servants have the right to strike?" the editorial asks. "The Federation's position is clear... our members, by convention mandate, have rejected the strike concept. They do not regard it as a necessary part of the base on which to build a collective bargaining structure in the federal public service. Undoubtedly, we will be assailed from some quarters for expressing this viewpoint.

"Those favoring the right to strike claim that public servants are denied a fundamental Canadian right if they cannot obtain it. The majority of our members

reject this premise in its application to the public service. Their considered feeling is that the safeguarding of the common good—the responsibility to maintain unbroken service to the people of Canada—must take precedence over all other considerations."

This seems the only sound ground. There is the right to strike against a company, but the right to strike against a public held captive by a government is in a different category. The right of the civil servant to fair treatment remains unquestioned. And the provision of methods to assure that fair treatment is all the more necessary because the right to strike is either impossible to grant, or will prove impossible, when granted, to be exercised without difficulties too great to be acceptable.

Nutrition For Elderly

By Dr. Theodore R. Van Dellen It is difficult and often unwise to change the life-long habits of oldsters. My philosophy is to let them alone unless they are doing something detrimental to their health. Most problems along this line center about diet and almost every day I receive a letter from a worried daughter: "What shall I feed my 70-year-old mother who lives with us?"

The aged need fewer calories because they are less active. In addition, their basal metabolic rate is 10 per cent less than that of younger adults. There is no need for concern when they ask for smaller servings, provided they are not undernourished. There is no foundation for the belief that proteins should be lessened because they are "hard on the kidneys." It is true that the rate of tissue growth is slower in old age, but proteins are needed to replace worn-out tissues. Meats, liver, fish, chicken, skim milk, cheese, eggs, and cereals are excellent nutritional building blocks and should not be decreased with advancing years.

Fat consumption should be reduced because of its high caloric count and its relationship to hardening of the arteries. But this seldom is a problem because most senior citizens eat less of everything, including fats. Carbohydrates are less expensive, available in a variety of items, and are easy to chew and digest.

There are some special considerations. Oldsters need calcium and the dairy products are a good source. Iron deficiency is noted frequently but can be corrected by increasing the intake of green vegetables, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, peas, beans, lentils, and meats. The vitamin need is supplied through variety.

Roughage helps prevent constipation. The excessive use of salt should be taboo. And there is no harm in a glass of sherry before dinner and brandy as a sedative.

SHORT STATURE K. V. M. writes: Can an operation be performed on a young man to increase his height one to two inches?

REPLY Yes, but it is safer and much easier to be content with what he has. After all, many successful and influential people have been shorter than average. Growth hormones are capable of increasing height but, for practical purposes, they are too difficult to obtain.

ENLARGED KIDNEYS S. T. writes: My son recently had one kidney removed because of hydro-nephrosis. Will you say something about this disease in your column?

REPLY This condition represents an enlargement of a kidney caused by an obstruction. Infection and the back pressure of the urine injure the delicate kidney tissues, and removal of the organ is suggested when the damage is irreparable.

(NOTE: All correspondence to Dr. Van Dellen should be addressed to: Dr. Theodore Van Dellen, c/o Chicago Tribune, Chicago, Illinois 60606.)

NOTES BY THE WAY

It is indeed clever of nature to fix it so that no two snowflakes are alike, but does she have to dump several billion of them on us to prove her point?—Calgary Herald.

A dog is said to be still man's best friend—which says something for the loyalty of animals.—Ottawa Journal.

Women complain when their hair starts to turn grey, but most men are happy if they can keep some of theirs, no matter what color it is.—Vancouver Sun.

They say that, before long science should be able to wipe out the major killing diseases. But the resourceful human race will find something else to die of.—Calgary Herald.

Quebec Liquor Board employees have voted to end their strike. Their decision will be a glorious headache to thousands of thirsty Quebecers.—Hamilton Spectator.

"I was not impaired your Honor!" the defendant insisted. "But the officer has just told the court you were trying to climb a hydro pole."—Well—what would you do, your Honor, if an elephant and two crocodiles were chasing you?—Financial Post.

Were the question still worth only 64 silver dollars, as once it was, today's quiz show contestants wouldn't even bother to answer it.—Boston Globe.

Hear about the Texan and his wife who dropped in at a fancy art gallery and bought up all the Van Goghs, El Grecos, Gauguins, Monets, etc., in the place? "Okay, honey," he beamed with a relieved sigh, "that takes care of our Christmas cards. Now let's get started on our shopping."—Montreal Star.

Certainly you know about the scientist who concentrates on a single problem, learning more and more about less and less until he finally knows everything about nothing. On the other hand, the economist knows a little about everything, learning less and less about more and more until he finally knows nothing about everything.—Wall Street Journal.

A death with honor decision was made by the North West Sussex Water Board at Horsham yesterday. A directive to the board's bailiffs allows them to shoot cormorants suspected of eating any of the £1,700 worth of trout which are to restock Crawley's Weir Wood reservoir at Forest Row. But "to be fair" to the dead birds a post-mortem examination will be made to establish their guilt or innocence.—Manchester Guardian.

Power Struggle At UN

By Carman Cumming Canadian Press Staff Writer

The long opening battle of the United Nations "Article 19 war" has subsided into armistice, and the question arises: Who won? Washington, Moscow and Peking might all claim a small slice of victory out of the power struggle. All of them suffered setbacks as well, but the big loser seems to be the paralyzed UN itself.

Washington has backed up step by step ever since last Dec. 1 in its declared resolve to bring the Soviets to heel under Article 19.

Repeatedly the U.S. insisted it would challenge the Soviets' right to vote in the General Assembly at the first opportunity because of their refusal to pay peace force assessments.

But last Thursday the assembly was blackjacked into a vote by Communist China's ally, Albania. The Americans, in a display of intricate legal contortion, explained that it was only a procedural matter so the Russians could vote.

BLUFF CALLED? The Albanians said that meant the American bluff had been called.

To some extent they were right, since Article 19 says clearly that countries whose arrears total more than two years' assessments "shall have no vote" in the assembly. It makes no distinction between procedural and substantive matters.

But the result was far from a clear victory for the 13 debtor countries—who include France, Belgium, South Africa and Albania itself besides the Soviet bloc.

The 13 were stymied when the assembly refused to free them from the threat of Article 19, even though the Russians had promised an indirect payment if the body would do so.

To Western eyes, that indicated support for the assembly's right to levy peace-keeping assessments. And it also meant that the Russians, while continuing to insist on exclusive peace-keeping control by the Security Council, were seriously looking for a way out of the tangle.

BIG TONGUE EMBARRASSED Peking's role in the battle—and its motives—are much less clear.

Most Western delegates assume that the Chinese regime, barred from the UN itself, directed Albania's manoeuvre in trying to force a showdown vote. They believe the aim was to embarrass both the Russians and Americans and to damage the UN.

If that assessment is true, the Chinese had some success. The Americans and Russian were indeed embarrassed and the assembly had to stumble through the most dismal meeting of a dismal session before managing to block Albania.

But the outcome was just what the Russians and Americans had agreed on—a summer-long adjournment to allow examination of the whole peace-keeping setup.

If the Chinese aim was to disrupt these negotiations, it failed. Conceivably, it could even backfire and prod the big two into their first meaningful talks on the problem.

HOW TO MAKE BAKED BEANS BETTER
Crosby's Pure Barbados Molasses
Some people like more and some like less molasses, so the packers of baked beans and molasses have to use less. But if you like the better flavor more molasses gives to baked beans, just put Crosby's Pure Barbados Molasses on the table and enjoy the beans to your taste. D-E-I-C-I-O-U-S. Enjoy baked beans often... and enjoy them more with Crosby's Pure Barbados Molasses.
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